

### **REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. In the Office Action, mailed January 15, 2004, the Examiner rejected claim 53, objected to claim 54 and allowed claims 43-52 and 58. By this amendment, claim 53 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 54 and claim 54 has been canceled. Following entry of these amendments, claims 43-53 and 58 will be pending in the application.

#### ***Allowed Claims***

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 43-52 and 58. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this determination.

#### ***Objected to Claim***

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 54 as being dependent upon rejected independent claim 53. The Examiner's objection has been made moot because Applicant has canceled claim 54 and incorporated the subject matter of claim 54 into rejected claim 53.

#### ***Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)***

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 53 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by either U.S. Patent No. 4,592,275 to Frankl ("Frankl") or U.S. Patent No. 2,916,142 to Fontein ("Fontein"). Applicant has amended claim 54 to incorporate the subject matter contained in objected to claim 54. Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection of claim 53 has been made moot.

Applicant further asserts that claim 53, prior to its amendment by this response, is patentably distinct over the art of record and reserves the right to file a continuing application to such patentable subject matter. However, to facilitate the issuance of the present application, Applicant has placed claim 53 in a conditional for allowance by incorporating the subject matter of objected to claim 54.

Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 53 is in a condition for allowance, and respectfully requests a Notice to that effect.

**Conclusion**

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition of allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

**CHARGE STATEMENT:** The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees that may be required relative to this application, or credit any overpayment, to our Account 03-3975, Order No. 044191-0300051 (RD-001).

Respectfully submitted,  
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